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UNITED STATES.

REPORTS TO THE SURGEON GENERAL, PUBLIC HEALTH AND MARINE-HOSPITAL SERVICE.

BERIBERI IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

Acting Asst. Surg. Sams, at Charleston, S. C., reports March 1:

Three cases of beriberi have occurred at Ten Mile Hill, a few miles distant from Charleston among the same colored convicts and in the same stockade in which the epidemic occurred which was reported March 27, 1910. These cases are of a similar character to the previous ones, with anasarca, loss of reflexes, paresthesia, tachycardia, dilated heart, etc. An interesting accompanying symptom is a roughness and pigmentation of the skin of elbows and forearms, such as is present in cases of pellagra. In one instance this lesion was noticed prior to the beriberic symptoms. There are no pellagrins among the convicts.

PLAGUE-PREVENTION WORK.

INFECTED GROUND SQUIRREL.

During the week ended February 18, 1911, the finding of 1 plague-infected ground squirrel was reported. The squirrel was found February 1, in Alameda County, Cal., at S. Jones's ranch, 5 miles northeast of Haywards.

DISTRIBUTION OF POISON.

In connection with the making of a squirrel-free zone around the cities in California on San Francisco Bay, 615 acres of land in Alameda County were covered with poison during the week ended February 18, 1911.

Record of Plague Infection.

Places.	Date of last case of human plague.	Date of last case of rat plague.	Date of last case of squirrel plague.	Total number of rodents found infected since May, 1907.
California:				
Cities—				
San Francisco.....	Jan. 30, 1908.....	Oct. 23, 1908.....	None.....	398 rats.
Oakland.....	Oct. 26, 1909.....	Dec. 1, 1908.....	do.....	126 rats.
Berkeley.....	Aug. 28, 1907.....	None recorded.....	do.....	None.
Los Angeles.....	Aug. 11, 1908.....	None.....	Aug. 21, 1908.....	1 squirrel.
Counties				
Alameda (exclusive of the city of Oakland).	Sept. 26, 1909.....	Wood rat, Oct. 17, 1909.	Feb. 1, 1911.....	94 squirrels.
Contra Costa.....	July 21, 1908.....	None.....	Sept. 10, 1910.....	1 wood rat.
Merced.....	None recorded.....	do.....	June 6, 1910.....	247 squirrels.
Monterey.....	do.....	do.....	do.....	2 squirrels.
San Benito.....	June 5, 1910.....	do.....	July 11, 1910.....	4 squirrels.
San Joaquin.....	None recorded.....	do.....	Jan. 9, 1911.....	20 squirrels.
San Luis Obispo.....	do.....	do.....	Jan. 29, 1910.....	11 squirrels.
Santa Clara.....	Aug. 23, 1910.....	do.....	Oct. 5, 1910.....	1 squirrel.
Santa Cruz.....	None recorded.....	do.....	May 17, 1910.....	23 squirrels.
Stanislaus.....	do.....	do.....	May 21, 1910.....	3 squirrels.
Washington:				
Seattle.....	Oct. 30, 1907.....	Feb. 8, 1910.....	None.....	5 squirrels.
				22 rats.

Rats Collected and Examined for Plague Infection.

Places.	Week ended—	Found dead.	Total collected.	Examined.	Found infected.
California:					
Cities—					
Berkeley	Feb. 18	.....	1 130	78	.....
Oakland	do	30	2 598	498	.....
San Francisco	do	78	3 1,594	1,141	.....
Counties—					
San Joaquin	do	.....	4 2	2	.....
Washington:					
Cities—					
Seattle	do	.....	894	734	.....
Total		108	3,218	2,453	.....

¹ Identified, *Mus norvegicus* 78, *Mus musculus* 52.² Identified, *Mus norvegicus* 515, *Mus rattus* 2, *Mus musculus* 80, *Mus alexandrinus* 1.³ Identified, *Mus norvegicus* 914, *Mus rattus* 163, *Mus musculus* 364, *Mus alexandrinus* 153.⁴ Identified, *Mus norvegicus* 2.

Examination of Rats from Steamship China.

During the week ended February 11, 1911, there were examined at the Federal laboratory at San Francisco 25 rats received from the steamship *China*. No plague-infected rats were found.

Squirrels Collected and Examined for Plague Infection.

Places.	Week ended—	Trapped and shot.	Found dead.	Examined.	Found infected.
California:					
Counties—					
Alameda	Feb. 18	385	.....	385	1
Fresno	do	91	.....	91	.....
Imperial	do	39	.....	36	.....
Kern	do	15	.....	15	.....
Los Angeles	do	298	.....	292	.....
Madera	do	46	.....	46	.....
Mariposa	do	192	.....	192	.....
Merced	do	82	.....	82	.....
Monterey	do	707	1	703	.....
San Diego	do	73	.....	69	.....
San Joaquin	do	356	.....	353	.....
San Luis Obispo	do	256	2	258	.....
Santa Clara	do	208	.....	201	.....
Stanislaus	do	249	1	247	.....
Yolo	do	9	.....	9	.....
Total		3,006	4	2,970	1

Other Animals Collected and Examined.

Places.	Week ended—	Animals collected.	Examined.	Found infected.
California:				
Counties—				
Alameda	Feb. 18	2 gophers.....	2	.....
Fresno	do	5 rabbits, 1 owl ..	6	.....
Imperial	do	79 rabbits.....	73	.....
Los Angeles	do	3 owls.....	3	.....
Mariposa	do	4 rabbits.....	4	.....
Merced	do	7 rabbits.....	7	.....
San Diego	do	1 rabbit.....	1	.....
San Joaquin	do	23 rabbits.....	23	.....
San Luis Obispo	do	7 rabbits.....	7	.....
Santa Clara	do	2 rabbits, 17 gophers.	19	.....
Stanislaus	do	4 rabbits.....	4	.....
Yolo	do	20 rabbits.....	20	.....
Total			169	.....